Introduction of WLL facility

3810. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Wireless Local Loop (WLL) technology for providing telephone connections in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that industrial lobby in basic cellular services is opposing WLL technology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) objected to this on the plea that the said decision is detrimental to their interests and moved Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), which has dismissed the COAI's Petition.

Licences for long distance service

3811. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies which have been issued licences for providing long distance service;

(b) the number of companies which have been registered as infrastructure provider-I and II;

(c) whether PSU like MTNL and BSNL can withstand the